
Clinical Management of Yellow Fever



Yellow Fever

- **Acute viral infection**
- **Transmitted by mosquitoes**
- **Endemic and epidemic in Africa**
- **High CFR in classic yellow fever**
- **No curative medical treatment**
- **Preventable by vaccination**

Clinical Yellow Fever

- **No protracted carrier stage**
- **No direct person to person contact**
- **3-6 day incubation period**
- **Patient is viremic 3-6 days after onset of fever**
- **Wide clinical spectrum of disease**
- **Easily confused with other causes of fever**

Spectrum of Clinical Illness

- **Undifferentiated febrile illness**
 - resembles many other fevers

- **Classic Yellow Fever**
 - fever, vomiting, epigastric pain
 - prostration, dehydration
 - scleral icterus
 - renal and hepatic abnormalities
 - hemorrhagic tendency
 - GI bleeding - black vomitus

Phases of Clinical Yellow Fever

- **Phase 1- *nonspecific febrile illness***
 - *viremic patient, but diagnosis difficult*
- **Period of Remission**
 - *brief clinical improvement*
 - *3rd-4th day after onset*
- **Phase 2 - "intoxication"**
 - *hepatic and renal dysfunction*
 - *bleeding*
- **50% case fatality rate for severe YF**

Suggestive Physical Signs

- **Fever is almost always present**
- **Faget's sign - relative bradycardia**
 - slow heart rate in relation to fever
- **Conjunctival congestion**
- **Flushing of face and neck**
- **Tongue reddened at end and margins**
- **Minor gingival hemorrhages**

YF Case Management - 1

- **No curative therapy exists**
- **Good supportive care vital**
- **Prevent or correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalance**
- **Treat other infections**
- **Give paracetamol, not aspirin
(aspirin may aggravate bleeding)**

YF Case Management - 2

- **Give anti-emetics and anti-convulsants, if indicated**
- **Use bed nets for all suspected YF patients**
- **Do not transfuse routinely**
 - **use the haematocrit in well hydrated patients as a guide**
 - **will not help seriously ill patients in shock, or those with severe liver damage**

Record Patient Information

- **Diagnosis**
- **Date of consultation and of onset of symptoms**
- **Age, sex, address**
- **Specimens obtained**
- **Treatment**
- **Outcome**

Prevent Spread of Yellow Fever in Health Facilities

- **Use bed nets with all suspected YF patients**
- **Protect all water containers from mosquitoes**
- **Eliminate all mosquito breeding places nearby**
- **Eliminate adult mosquitoes**
- **Vaccinate all staff**